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through many establishments. Thereby we get a perfectly certain unit of measurement. It is true that establishments differ in size from the "Gould system" down to the little town bakery; and thus the mere number of establishments affected gives us little information. But all we have to do is to add the number of men striking and the duration of the strike in order to reach a judgment as to the relative seriousness of the disturbance at any one time or place, or in any one industry.

The economist will find that this investigation confirms the conclusions hitherto generally accepted in regard to strikes: for instance, that over one-half of them are unsuccessful; that in the great mass of cases the reason for the strike is connected with wages; that the loss to employees is enormous (\$59,972,440 in six years); and that even when the strike is successful it requires three or four months of the increased wages to make up the loss. Here, however, we reach the most difficult, and at the same time most uncertain part of the investigation. The phenomena are so intricate that they escape the most refined instruments of statistical analysis and will not submit to tabulation.

RICHMOND MAYO SMITH.

*Die Englische Fabrikinspektion.* Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Fabrikgesetzgebung in England. Von OTTO W. WEYER. Tübingen, 1888, Verlag der Laupp'schen Buchhandlung. — xv. 325 pp.

This purports to be the doctor's thesis of a young German-American at the university of Tübingen. It deals exhaustively with a part of the history of factory legislation in England. As the title of the book indicates, it describes chiefly the efforts hitherto made by the English government to control the labor of women and children, in factories, workshops and private houses, by means of inspectors. The administrative machinery of control, its necessity, origin, development, present condition, and the results achieved through it, form the subject-matter of the work. Original material, *viz.*, the reports of parliamentary committees and of the inspectors themselves, has been used constantly in its preparation. It is written in a spirit of strong sympathy with the objects and results of the English factory acts and of opposition to "*ultra-Smithianismus*." The author divides the movement of which he treats into two periods, the one including the experiments at factory regulation previous to 1833, the other the act of that year and all the additions to and modifications of it which have been adopted since. The book closes with a full classified statement of the provisions of the codification act of 1878, and a discussion of some of the imperfections which still exist in the system.

The chief reason why the acts passed before 1833 accomplished so

little was that their execution was committed to the justices of the peace and to visitors selected by them, both unpaid officials and intrusted with very little power. Often also the justices were interested parties.

But so rapidly did the evils of the factory system increase, and with them the Chartist agitation and the ten-hour movement, that it became necessary to greatly enlarge the scope of legislation, and to provide for its better enforcement. With the act of 1833 factory inspection in the proper sense of the word was introduced. The author describes very fully the difficulties against which the early inspectors had to contend and the zeal with which they pursued their work. The law was shown on trial to be imperfect in many respects. The inspectors could not gain access to all parts of the factory; almost unlimited fraud was practised in granting age permits to children whom their parents desired to send to work; a vicious relay system nullified all efforts to restrict the hours of labor; no proper instruction was given the children in the schools they were expected to attend. Moreover, the act only extended to textile industries and afforded no direct protection to women.

By 1840 the defects of the law were fully evident, but so strong a feeling in favor of the policy had been awakened that the opposition of the factory lords and of the *doctrinaire* economists could not prevent further and more sweeping legislation. By the act of 1844 the number of sub-inspectors was enlarged and the system of control made more rigid. Undiscriminating grants of age permits were checked by a better selection of certifying physicians and the bestowment upon them of limited powers as inspectors. An attempt was made to compel employers to so guard their machinery as to prevent accidents. Great difficulty, however, was found in enforcing this, and it is not until recently that full success has been attained. The power of the justices of the peace to diminish penalties was also taken away. A beginning was also made in the work of restricting female labor. The relay system did not disappear till after the laws of 1850 and 1853 established the normal labor day of ten and a half hours for women and young persons, with the half-time system of 1844 for children.

The later acts, especially those of 1864 and 1867, extending the system of regulation and inspection to all the important branches of English industry, are carefully described and their effects traced. The vast benefits which have resulted are clearly shown. The opinion that the factory acts have greatly promoted the establishment of a national system of education is also expressed. The educational effect which the discussion of these measures has had upon the English people is emphasized as an indirect but most beneficial result.

H. L. OSGOOD.